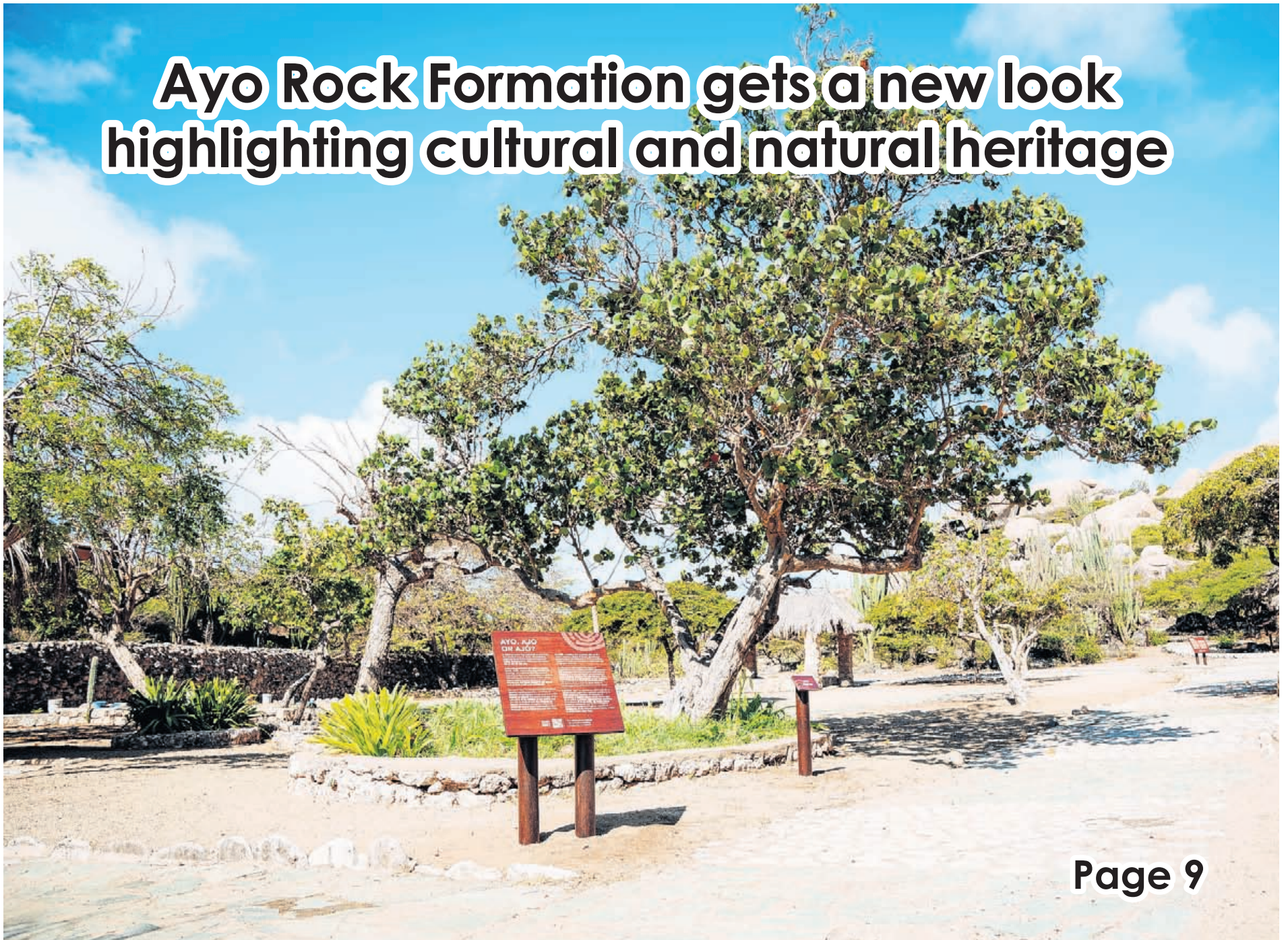




Ayo Rock Formation gets a new look highlighting cultural and natural heritage



Page 9

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Early morning cloudy skies over the U.S. Capitol during the 8th day of the government shutdown on Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

Senate vote tests Trump's authority to strike vessels he says are carrying drugs

By **STEPHEN GROVES** and **MARY CLARE JALONICK**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate was voting Wednesday on legislation to put a check on President Donald Trump's ability to use deadly military force against drug cartels, as Democrats and at least

one Republican tried to counter the administration's extraordinary assertion of presidential war power to destroy vessels in the Caribbean. It was the first vote in Congress on Trump's military campaign that has so far has destroyed four vessels in the Caribbean, killed

at least 21 people and stopped narcotics from reaching the U.S., according to the White House. The war powers resolution would require the president to seek authorization from Congress before further military strikes on the cartels.

The Trump administration has asserted that drug traffickers are armed combatants threatening the United States, creating justification to use military force. But that assertion has been met with some unease on Capitol Hill.

Some Republicans are asking the White House for more clarification on its legal justification and specifics on how the strikes are conducted, while Democrats insist they are violations of U.S. and international law. It's a clash that could redefine how the world's most powerful military uses lethal force and set the tone for future global conflict.

The White House has already indicated Trump would veto the legislation, and the Senate vote Wednesday was not expected to succeed, but it provided lawmakers an opportunity to go on the record with their objections to Trump's declaration that the U.S. is in "armed conflict" with drug cartels.

"It sends a message when a significant number of legislators say, 'Hey, this is a bad idea,'" said Sen. Tim Kaine, a Virginia Democrat who pushed the resolution alongside Democratic Sen. Adam Schiff of California.

What is the War Powers Resolution?

Wednesday's vote was being brought under the War Powers Resolution of 1973, which was intended to reassert congressional power over the declaration of war. The legislation would bar the Trump administration from using military strikes against vessels in the Caribbean Sea unless Congress specifically authorizes it. □

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Federal government shutdown grinds into a second week, but quiet talks emerging

By LISA MASCARO, MARY CLARE JALONICK and JOEY CAPPELLETTI

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tours at the Capitol have come to a standstill. The House is keeping its doors closed, while the Senate repeated its loop Wednesday of failed votes on competing bills to reopen the government. President Donald Trump is threatening to mass fire federal workers and refuse back pay for the rest.

As the government shutdown entered a second week, there's no discernible endgame in sight.

"Congress, do your damn job," said Randy Erwin, president of the National Federation of Federal Employees, with other top union leaders near the Capitol.

No negotiations, at least publicly, are underway, but behind the scenes quiet talks are emerging. Clusters of lawmakers, Republicans and Democrats, are meeting privately, searching for ways out of the impasse, which hinges on striking a deal for preserving health care subsidies. Signs of discomfort are apparent, as military troops are set to miss paychecks, flights are being delayed at airports nationwide and federal programs are disrupted.

Two prominent Republicans, Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia and Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri, have broken from their party, saying something must be done to help Americans pay for the coming health insurance rate hikes. At the same time, the GOP leadership's strategy of convincing nervous Democrats to immediately end the shutdown without resolving the health care issue was not working. The dueling bills, one from Republicans and the other from Democrats, failed again in the Senate.

Shutdown grinds on, but signs of quiet talks

The Republicans who have majority control in Congress believe they have the upper hand politically, as they fend off Democratic



From left, House Majority Whip Tom Emmer, R-Minn., Chair of the House Republican Conference, Rep. Lisa McClain, R-Mich., Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, R-La., and Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, Tom Cole, R-Okla., during a press conference on the 8th day of the government shutdown at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2025, in Washington.

demands to quickly fund health insurance subsidies as part of any plan to end the shutdown.

House Speaker Mike Johnson appears so confident he is preparing to take live questions from callers on C-SPAN's Thursday morning show public affairs show. On Wednesday he squared off against Democratic senators outside his office. But so have Democrats dug in, convinced that Americans are on their side in the fight to prevent the looming health care price spikes and blaming Trump for the shutdown.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer's expletive-dotted rant was finding fans on social media.

At its core, the debate is over the health care issue that has tangled Congress for years, and in particular, the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, that Trump tried, and failed, to repeal and replace during his first term at the White House.

Congress increased the federal subsidies that help people purchase private insurance policies on the Affordable Care Act exchanges during the COVID-19 pandemic. The federal aid was popular, and it boosted ACA enrollment to a record 24 million people.

Those enhanced subsidies are set to expire at year's end.

Republicans say Congress can deal with the health insurance issue in the months ahead. Democrats are fighting to resolve the problem now, as people are receiving notices of higher policy rates for the new year.

Trump wants to make a health care deal

A loosely formed collection of senators, Republicans and Democrats, have bantered about options for addressing the health insurance problem.

One Republican, Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, has offered her own plan for kick-starting talks. It involves reopening the government now, but with a "commitment," she said, to discussing the health care issue.

Another option floated by GOP Sen. Mike Rounds of South Dakota, a former state governor, is a temporary extension of the subsidies, for one year, and then a phase out — though House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries has panned the short extension as a nonstarter.

And Trump himself signaled he was open to negotiating with Democrats over their demands to save health care subsidies. Ear-

lier this week, the president said that talks were already underway as he wants "great health care" for the people, only to shift his tone hours later to say the government must reopen first. "I spoke to the president at length yesterday about that very thing," House Speaker Mike Johnson said about his Monday conversation with Trump. "And yes, he wants to solve problems."

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, the Republican from South Dakota, has said there may be a path forward — once the government reopens.

Doubts are high and trust is low

But Democrats argue that Republicans failed to address the expiring health care subsidies this summer when they approved Trump's signature bill into law, commonly referred to as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

Democrats doubt that with Johnson keeping the House out of legislative session, and sending lawmakers home to work in their districts, the Republicans will quickly come back to work on resolving the health care problem.

"Tens of millions of people are about to experience dramatically increased

health insurance costs — how is that acceptable in the wealthiest country in the history of the world?" said Jeffries of New York.

"A health care crisis is unfolding before the eyes of the American people because of the actions taken by the GOP — they're on vacation," he said.

Missed paychecks for workers, and more failed votes

While federal employees have often missed paychecks during shutdowns, and the first pay period is coming in the next week, Trump is now threatening to do away with guaranteed back pay. It would be a stark departure from what is normal. The White House budget office, under Russ Vought, argues the law says back pay is not automatic, and Congress would need to approve it.

The union leaders warned Trump against using the federal workers as "political pawns" in the political brawl. "And president, you better start obeying the Constitution," Erwin said.

Part of the reason the parties are so unwilling to budge from their positions is because their internal data is encouraging them not to cave. Over the weekend, Senate Democrats were briefed on information suggesting their health care messaging was resonating with voters. The memo from Senate Majority PAC was circulated to House Democrats and campaigns nationwide on Tuesday, with a clear directive: hold the line.

"It would be a mistake to take the pressure off Republicans," the memo says. Republicans, meanwhile, are sticking to their own playbook. A memo from the House GOP's campaign arm urged candidates to focus on the shutdown's economic impact, including a district-level breakdown of who would be affected by a government shutdown.

Each side has framed the shutdown fight as a precursor to the 2026 midterm elections. □

Last of 10 New Orleans jail escapees from May is captured under a house in Atlanta

By **JEFF MARTIN and JACK BROOK**

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — A

monthslong search for the only Louisiana inmate still on the run after an audacious May jailbreak ended Wednesday when authorities say they found him hiding in a basement crawl space under an Atlanta home, bringing the last of the 10 escapees into custody.

Derrick Groves, 28, was convicted of murder and facing a possible life sentence before the inmates escaped through a hole behind a toilet in a New Orleans jail. He had the most violent criminal record of the escapees and authorities offered a \$50,000 reward for tips leading to his recapture.

A SWAT team spent multiple hours searching house for Groves after obtaining a search warrant, Deputy U.S. Marshal Brian Fair said. "They couldn't find him, they had to deploy gas multiple times into the house and basement," Fair said. "Based on how long it took a seasoned, well-trained SWAT team to get him out, he had planned to hide for a while."

Groves was eventually located by a police dog that was sent in to get him, Atlanta police Deputy Chief Kelley Collier said.

Shirtless, shoeless and shackled at his wrists and ankles, Groves blew a kiss then grinned at someone filming him being led into a police car, in video provided by the Atlanta Police Department.

The tip leading to his capture came in via New Orleans Crimestoppers, an anonymous tip program, Fair said. Groves was the only person in the house and no one else was arrested.

The home's garage door could be seen collapsed inward Wednesday afternoon, as officers and vehicles blocked off access to the scene. Atop a sloping lawn and surrounded by trees, the brick house is in a neighborhood beside



A house in Atlanta where escaped Louisiana inmate Derrick Groves was taken into custody is seen Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2025.

Associated Press

Tyler Perry Studios, one of the country's largest movie production facilities.

Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry applauded law enforcement for putting all 10 escapees "back where they belong: BEHIND BARS," in a post on X.

It was not immediately known whether Groves has a lawyer who could be reached for comment Wednesday.

The other nine escapees had been recaptured within six weeks of breaking out of the May 16 breakout, and most were found still in Louisiana.

Escapee's mother reacts to his capture

"I'm all messed up, I'm just trying to talk to him," Groves' mother, Stephanie Groves, who spoke to The Associated Press after learning about the arrest online.

Fighting tears, she said she had urged her son to surrender peacefully and didn't know why he went to Atlanta. She said her family had been followed and watched by law enforcement since the breakout.

"It's just been a mess," she said. "I'm just glad it's over with."

"Of course he was going to get caught," she added.

The jailbreak in New Orleans

Groves and the nine other men yanked open a faulty cell door inside the New Orleans jail, squeezed through a hole behind a toilet, scaled a barbed-wire fence and fled into the coverage of darkness. With 10 men on the lam, it was one of the largest jailbreaks in recent U.S. history.

The inmates' absence wasn't discovered until a morning headcount, hours after they bolted for freedom. At the scene of the crime, the cell where the men removed a toilet to sneak through a hole, they left a message. On the cell wall they drew an arrow, pointing at the gap they slipped through — above it was a graffitied message: "To Easy LoL."

City and state officials have pointed to multiple security lapses in the jail, including ineffective cell locks and the assertion that the inmates got out when the lone guard monitoring them went to get food. But authorities remain adamant that the men also had likely had help and that the escape may have been an inside job.

A maintenance worker at the jail was arrested for al-

legedly helping the incarcerated men escape, by turning off the water to the toilet where a hole was cut behind for the fugitives to sneak out of. The man has denied knowingly aiding them via his lawyer, who says he was just unclogging a toilet. Another former jail employee, identified by authorities as Groves' girlfriend, is accused of helping coordinate the escape.

Search for the fugitives

Hundreds of law enforcement officers scoured the city for the fugitives and leveraged phone records and hundreds of tips to track some of them down quickly.

At least 16 people, many of them friends and family of the escapees, have been accused of aiding the fugitives before or after the jailbreak and were arrested on felony charges. Court documents allege that those people provided food, cash, transport and shelter.

One fugitive allegedly hid out in a vacant home which his friend had been hired to repaint and was captured in Baton Rouge, more than 80 miles (129 kilometers) from New Orleans. Two others were caught after a high-speed car chase in

Walker County, Texas. But most of the fugitives were found inside Orleans Parish city limits.

Antoine Massey, one of the last fugitives to be recaptured, allegedly posted photos and videos on social media while on the run. Orleans Parish Sheriff Susan Hutson, who has largely blamed the breakout on ailing infrastructure at the jail, has faced widespread criticism from state and local officials over her handling of the escape and management of the jail.

Escapees face additional charges

Many of the men were originally in the New Orleans jail, awaiting sentences or trials, for alleged violent crimes including murder. Groves had been convicted of second-degree murder in 2024 for opening fire on a family block party on Mardi Gras day, killing two people and injuring others. He faces life imprisonment without parole.

The nine other men accused of breaking out of the city jail pleaded not guilty to escape charges in July, appearing via video call from the Louisiana State Penitentiary.

"Everyone is entitled to due process. But there's a video of these detainees running out of the jail in the middle of the night. They were not heading to court hearings," state Attorney General Liz Murrill said.

Orleans Parish District Attorney Jason Williams hailed the end of the search and said prosecutors "will pursue every available legal avenue" against Groves.

All 10 men are charged with simple escape, which is tacked on top of previous criminal counts that initially landed them in jail, according to Murrill's office. The escape charge carries a sentence of two to five years in prison.

Groves' attorney was present for the arraignment but did not enter a plea on his behalf, reported The New Orleans Advocate/The Times-Picayune. □

How Gen Z protesters brought down Madagascar's government and now want the president out

ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar (AP) — Youth-led protests in the Indian Ocean island of Madagascar are continuing for a third week in the most significant unrest in the country in years.

The protests led by a group calling itself "Gen Z Madagascar" began Sept. 25 over electricity and water outages but have snowballed into larger dissatisfaction with the government and the leadership of President Andry Rajoelina. Civic groups and trade unions have joined the protests, which have resulted in nighttime curfews being enforced in the capital, Antananarivo, and other major cities. The United Nations said at least 22 people have been killed.

Rajoelina fired his government and appointed a new prime minister in response to the uprising, but protesters have not relented and gave Rajoelina an ultimatum to resign this week. They say they have rejected his offer of talks, which were set for Wednesday.

Here's what to know about the protests inspired by young, social media-savvy Madagascans that mirror Gen Z anti-government demonstrations in Kenya, Nepal, Morocco and else-



Demonstrators protesting against chronic electricity and water cuts confront riot police in Antananarivo, Madagascar, Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025.

Associated Press

where.

Thousands on the streets

Thousands have taken to the streets, initially over chronic problems with the electricity and water supply. Protesters have since brought up a range of issues, including poverty and the cost of living, access to tertiary education, and alleged corruption and embezzlement of public funds by government officials and their families and associates.

The U.N. human rights office

said that at least 22 people were killed and more than 100 injured in the first few furious days of protests and accused Madagascar security forces of a violent response to what started as peaceful protests. The Madagascar government rejected that death toll but authorities haven't given their own count of deaths or injuries.

The protests have continued almost daily and the Gen Z Madagascar group has called for a major strike and stayaway on Thursday.

Rejecting Rajoelina

Rajoelina, 51, was elected president in 2018 and re-elected in 2023, when the vote was boycotted by opposition parties. But he first came to prominence in 2009 as the mayor of Antananarivo when he led protests against the government that resulted in a military-backed coup and the ouster of President Marc Ravalomanana. A military council took power before handing it to Rajoelina as transitional leader. Madagascar, a large is-

land of around 31 million people off the east coast of Africa, has seen several leaders forced out in uprisings since it gained independence from France in 1960 and has a history of political crises. It struggles with severe poverty, which affects around 80% of the population, according to the World Bank.

Rajoelina has attempted to appease the Gen Z protesters by meeting some of their demands and firing government officials and Prime Minister Christian Ntsay last week. But he appointed an army general as the new prime minister in a move seen by the protesters as an attempt to clamp down on them. He also prioritized the appointment of new ministers for the armed forces, public security and the gendarmerie law enforcement force, saying their mission is to "restore peace so that everyone can resume their daily lives."

Rajoelina has referred to the protests as an attempted coup.

Responding to Rajoelina's offer for talks, the Gen Z Madagascar group said in a statement:

"We do not reach out to a regime that every day crushes those who stand up for justice.□"

Putin is in Tajikistan for meetings with leaders of ex-Soviet leaders

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin began a state visit Wednesday in Tajikistan, a three-day trip that includes a series of meetings with leaders of other nations that once were part of the Soviet Union.

Trade and other ties with Tajikistan and other countries in Central Asia are increasingly important for Russia amid sweeping Western sanctions over its military action in Ukraine.

Putin arrived in the capital of Dushanbe and will hold talks with Tajikistan's President Emomali Rakhmon, followed by a Russia-Central Asia summit involving leaders of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. On Friday, they will be joined by leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus for a broader meeting of the Commonwealth of Independent States, a loose alliance of other former Soviet nations.

Rakhmon, in power for nearly 33 years, is the longest-serving of all ex-Soviet leaders. The 73-year-old former collective farm head came to power in 1992 following a devastating civil war that engulfed the country after the demise of the USSR. He crushed or cowed all opposition to his rule soon after coming to power, and he later pushed constitutional changes that

allow him to rule for life. Putin turned 73 on Tuesday, but has only been in power in Russia for a quarter century.

Russia has maintained a military base in Tajikistan, which shares a porous 1,300-kilometer (810-mile) border with Afghanistan. Tajikistan is a member of the International Criminal Court that in 2023 issued a warrant for Putin for alleged war crimes stemming from Moscow's actions in Ukraine, but he faces no risk of arrest in the country that relies on close political, economic and military ties with Russia. The ICC has no police force and relies on members to assist in arrests.

In September 2024, Putin made an official visit to Mongolia, another court

member that ignored calls to arrest him.□



Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, and Tajik President Emomali Rahmon shake hands during their meeting in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2025.

Associated Press

UNICEF warns that number of children in Haiti displaced by violence has nearly doubled

By **DÁNICA COTO** and **EVENS SANON**
Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— The number of children displaced by violence in Haiti has nearly doubled to 680,000, according to a new UNICEF report released Wednesday that warns minors are increasingly facing hunger, violence and recruitment by armed groups in the Caribbean nation. Overall, around 6 million Haitians half the country's population need humanitarian assistance, including more than 3.3 million children, UNICEF said. "Without decisive action, the future of an entire generation is at stake," the report stated.

Gang violence has displaced a record 1.3 million Haitians in recent years, with many cramming into makeshift shelters after their communities were razed. The number of such shelters has doubled countrywide to 246 in the first six months of the year, according to the report. Of those, more than 30% lack infrastructure that would provide basic protection. Many of the shelters are located in dangerous areas, with gangs controlling up to 90% of Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital.



Children look at students attending school at a shelter for families displaced by gang violence in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2025.

Associated Press

"In many areas, aid workers cannot safely reach communities, and families cannot travel to clinics, food distribution points or schools," the report noted. About 5.7 million people, including more than 1 million children, are facing acute hunger. "This has to change," said Geraldine Matha-Pierre, mother of two boys, ages 13 and 15. "I'm hungry. My kids are hungry." They have been living in

a shelter for the past two years after gangs raided their community, and Matha-Pierre often calls friends to see if they have any food they can send over. She used to sell plantains, bananas and other crops from Haiti's countryside at a local market, but gang violence left her without a job to help feed her children and send them to school. Her two boys have missed an entire school year, but

Matha-Pierre said that a relative promised to help pay for them this year, with classes having just started.

Stripped of an education

At least one in four children in Haiti is out of school, with violence forcing more than 1,080 schools to close this year, according to UNICEF's report. During the last school year, more than 1,600 institutions were closed and 25 were occupied by armed groups, affecting more

than 243,400 students and 7,548 teachers, UNICEF found.

Meanwhile, 84 schools this year are being used as makeshift shelters, with displacement disrupting education for nearly 500,000 school-age children, according to the report.

Jeanette Salomon's 20-year-old son is among those stripped of an education.

"He's not going to school, he's not doing anything," she said.

She already lost her 13-year-old son to a stray bullet that struck him in the head two years ago, and she doesn't want gangs to recruit her oldest son.

"He has money, and I don't know where he gets the money from," she said. "I'm very protective of him, because that's all I have left."

'No one to protect him'

The U.N. has verified more than 300 cases of armed groups recruiting and using children last year, almost double the previous year. "Children as young as 10 are being forced to carry weapons, serve as lookouts or act as human shields," the report found. "Girls, in particular, face brutal risks of sexual violence, coercion and exploitation by armed group members." □

Argentine court sentences a former couple to years in prison over botched assassination of ex-VP

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — A court in Argentina sentenced a man to 10 years

in prison on Wednesday after finding him guilty of attempting to kill powerful former



Nicolas Carrizo, left, attends the sentencing of those on trial for alleged responsibility for the attempted assassination of former President and Vice President Cristina Fernández in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2025.

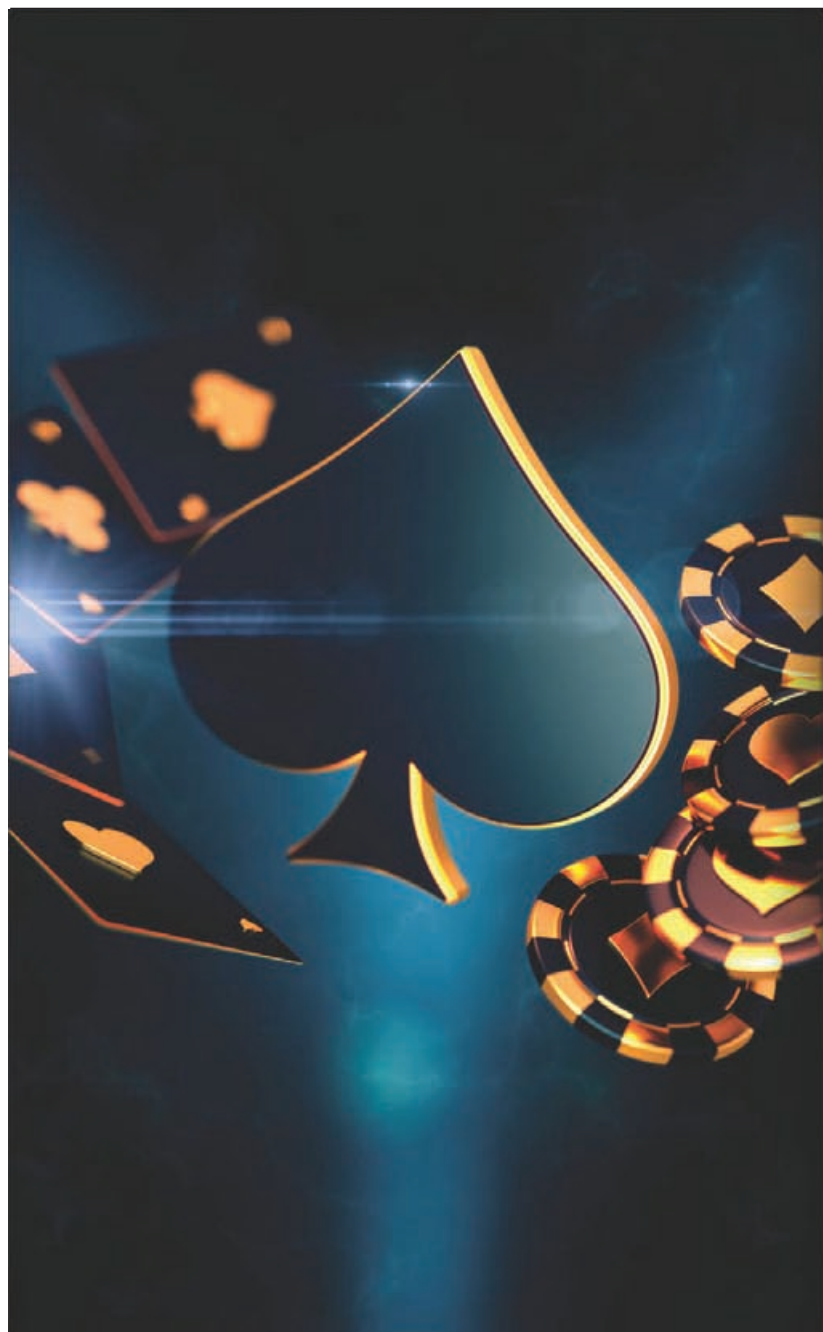
Associated Press

President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner three years ago. The court in Buenos Aires also sentenced the man's accomplice to eight years in prison, capping a dramatic case that has convulsed and captivated the country since the botched assassination attempt on Sept. 1, 2022, when the main defendant, Fernando Sabag Montiel, squeezed through a crowd outside the ex-president's home, thrust a loaded gun at her face and pulled the trigger. The gun did not go off. Fernández, then Argentina's vice president, was unharmed.

The bewildering episode provoked street protests from Fernández's die-hard supporters as well as skepticism and conspiracy theories from her fervent critics. Among Latin America's best-known politicians with three decades at the forefront of Argentine politics and two terms as president (2007-2015), Fernández is a deeply polarizing figure whose brand of left-wing populism brought Argentina infamy for its runaway inflation and enormous fiscal deficits. Convicted of corruption for allegedly steering public roadworks contracts to a friend's company, Fernán-

dez, 72, was sentenced earlier this year to six years behind bars.

Citing her advanced age and safety fears since the 2022 attack, a court allowed Fernández to serve her time under house arrest in Buenos Aires. While banned from running for public office, she remains outspoken against her political nemesis, libertarian President Javier Milei. From her apartment, she still posts diatribes on social media, waves at supporters gathered below her balcony and receives high-profile visitors, such as Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva last July. □



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A quick snack for the road Learn how to make the Aruban Pastechi!

(Oranjestad)—If you ever been to Aruba before, you probably heard of (and even tried) the Aruban Pastechi. Beloved by young and old, this tasty treat is a staple for party snacks, a quick lunch or even breakfast!

Here's how to make the Pastechi dough.

Ingredients:

- 4 cups of wheat flour
- 1 tbsp baking powder (if using self-rising flour, omit baking powder)
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 0.5 cup of melted butter
- 1 cup water
- 1 egg

Directions:

Sift your flour into a bowl and add all the dry ingredients before giving it a quick mix. Next add the butter, water and egg and mix until thoroughly combined. At this point, your dough will start to get sticky; time for an arm workout. Knead your dough into the bowl you are using or on a clean surface with some flour lightly dusted until its surface is smooth. You'll know your dough is ready when it doesn't stick to your hands or the surface on which you're kneading it. Let your dough rest covered for 15-20 minutes.



After resting, divide your dough into approximately 100 gram balls and roll it flat with a rolling pin. The thickness of the pastechi depends on your taste, but the average thinness would be around 1/4 inch or so.

Filling for the pastechis varies according to your taste. The easiest and most common filling you'll find in Aruba is a simple cheese filling. For this, we usually use shredded Gouda, but feel free to use any cheese that melts well when frying the pastry.

Place the filling on your rolled out piece of dough, fold it in half and pinch the sides shut with a fork. If you have a folding tool, feel free

to use it for this process. Your pastechi is ready for the fryer!

If you want to store some pastechis for later use, you can freeze them. A good tip is to place a piece of wax paper in between each pastechi if you are to store them on top of one another. This way the pastechis don't stick to each other when defrosting.

Here in Aruba we enjoy pastechi at any time of the day, but it has become almost tradition to eat pastechis for breakfast on the way to work. Many roadside snack trucks sell pastechi from early morning to noon, and offer a variety of fillings like cheese; ham and cheese; ground beef and pulled chicken to name a few. □

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Experience a taste of Belgium in Aruba – Only at L'Avenue, Palm Beach



Nestled in the heart of Palm Beach, Aruba, L'Avenue brings a fresh breeze of Belgian charm to the Caribbean. Just over a year since its grand opening, this intimate bistro has quickly made its mark with its warm hospitality, authentic cuisine, and elegant yet approachable ambiance.

Whether you're strolling through Palm Beach after a morning at the beach or looking for a special dinner spot, L'Avenue welcomes you with an inviting terrace, stylish décor, and the comforting aroma of Belgian classics crafted to perfection. It's a place where locals, travelers, food lovers, and beer connoisseurs come together — united by a love for great food, heartfelt service, and that unmistakable European flair.



At L'Avenue, every dish tells a story — one of tradition, seasonality, and bold yet balanced flavors. From crispy croquettes and perfectly poured Belgian beers to steaming pots of fresh mussels flown in weekly, the menu offers something both comforting and surprising.

Lunch includes a variety of sandwiches— with a healthy selection of bread options—if you're going for a light meal, but just like their dinner selection, also includes steak, chicken, fish, and even rabbit if you're craving a bit more of L'Avenue's exquisite menu. And let's not forget their wide selection of Belgian beer and European wine to complete the tasty experience! But that's not all! L'Avenue is offering their guests their Early Bird Special, available every day from 4pm to 7pm. Enjoy this affordable and delectable 3-course meal special at a comfortable price of \$29.50 per guest, which includes a selection of their fine in-house wine.

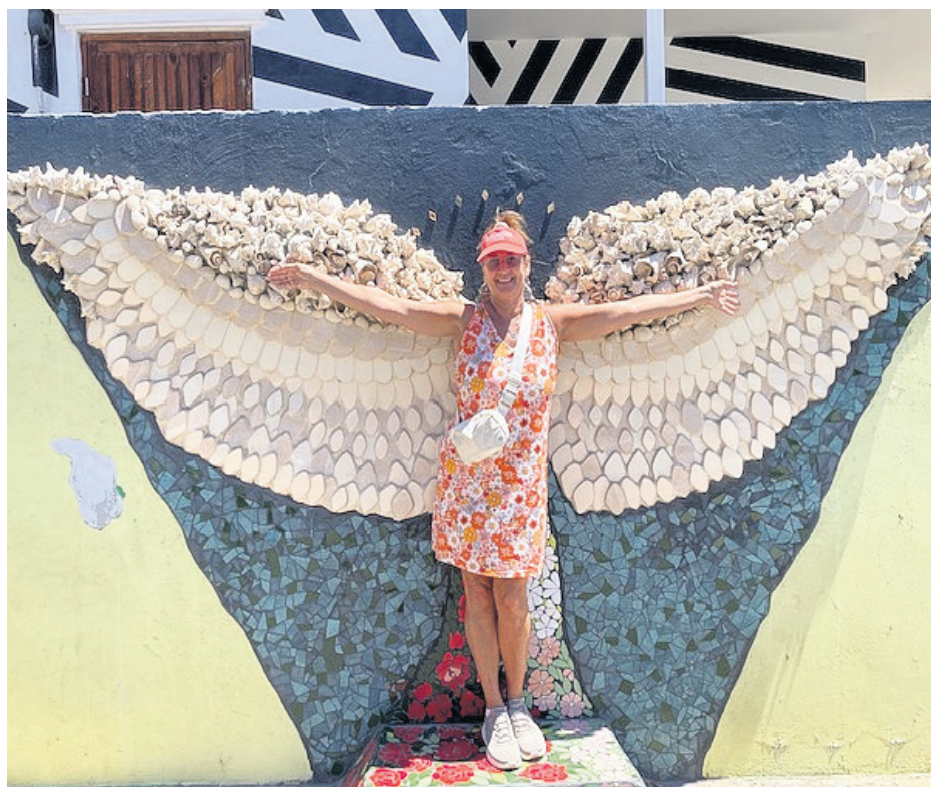
More Than a Bistro A Culinary Destination

L'Avenue is more than just a place to eat — it's a culinary destination. A thoughtfully curated menu, an extensive selection of premium Belgian beers, and an atmosphere that balances European elegance with island ease make it one of the most talked-about dining spots in Aruba.

Whether you're looking for a casual lunch, a romantic dinner, or a celebratory evening with friends, L'Avenue delivers a dining experience that's as memorable as it is delicious.

Open daily for lunch and dinner

Located in the heart of Palm Beach, Aruba
Come discover Belgium's best — right here at L'Avenue. ☐



Aruba to me: Gerry Tyburski

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes

without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Gerry Tyburski from Florahome, Florida

She wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is beauty everywhere."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! ☐

The Lionfish and its threat to our marine wild life



(Oranjestad)—Despite its colorful and striking appearance, the lionfish has become a Caribbean-wide problem for Atlantic sea life. The Aruban marine wild life is also affected by this beautiful dilemma, as it is foreign to our waters and has become a danger to our local fish and reefs.

Originating from the Indo-Pacific Ocean, the lionfish is a relatively small fish. It has no teeth, but it does protect itself against predators using its sharp, colorful spikes. It is said that the sting of a lionfish can be up

to 100 times more painful than that of a bee's sting.

Its natural predators in the Indo-Pacific are sharks and barracudas, but in the Caribbean Sea, local fish do not recognize the lionfish as part of their diet. In other words, the lionfish has no predators in the Caribbean Sea. And this becomes a major problem for our local marine life; if there are no predators to stimulate population control of lionfish, these fish can continue to reproduce and expand to other parts of the Atlantic, become more invasive

and dangerous for other types of fish.

For Aruba, the lionfish is a problem especially for our local coral reefs. According to Patrick van Brakel, lionfish expert and hunter from the Hunting Lionfish Aruba foundation, every reef has a "cleaning station"—tiny fish that eat algae and other types of waste on a reef, thus maintaining the reef's health and providing food to the fish population in the area. However, as the lionfish feeds off of these tiny fish, it becomes harder for the coral reef to maintain its health.

Patrick also shares the origins of lionfish in the Caribbean Sea. It is theorized that the introduction of these fish in the Atlantic happened in Florida, where people would buy lionfish from across the world to keep in their aquariums. However, lionfish grow, and as these buyers realized that the fish were too much upkeep, they were let out into the ocean to roam free. From continental USA, the lionfish travelled to and



invaded the entire Caribbean area, from Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao up to New York. In Aruba, lionfish were discovered in 2009.

Controlling the lionfish population is challenge, as each female fish can lay up to 40,000 eggs a day. Luckily, we have people like van Brakel who dedicate their lives hunting and capturing these invasive species, using them for consumption and jewelry making.

They are caught with a hand spear, an object resembling a garbage picker with 4 sharp prongs. These spears are used like a sling shot to catch lionfish from a distance. These fish are then put into a collecting tube and taken out of the water. Van Brakel not only catches them himself, but also cooks them for locals and tourists at The LionFish Snack Aruba in Paradera. This way, he does his part in protecting the local wild life. □

Ayo Rock Formation gets a new look highlighting cultural and natural heritage

(Oranjestad)—The Aruba Tourism Authority (A.T.A.), in collaboration with what was formerly known as the Aruba Amenities Committee (AAC), has completed an initiative consisting of two new trails with their own signage at Ayo Rock Formation. The goal is to enrich the visitor experience at the site while preserving its natural and cultural value.



The initiative introduces two themed trails: The Explorer's Trail – "A Stroll Thru Time"; The Muser's Trail – "Semper un Bida Dushi."

Each trail features signs with historical and cultural information in Papiamentu and English. Additional translations in Spanish and Dutch are available through QR codes on the signs. The content on the signs is interactive, including

plant identification and pictograph interpretation. The signs also present geological data, providing information and stories about Aruba's natural rock formations and its past.

The content was developed in collaboration with CAMIA, a heritage-based organization, to ensure depth and cultural accuracy. In the future, work will continue to further improve the overall experience, including maintenance of the restrooms and gazebos.

The trails are ready to be explored! A.T.A. invites everyone, locals and visitors alike, to learn, reflect, and enjoy Ayo Rock Formation while helping preserve the site for future generations. □



Aruba's cultural and literary development: Then and now

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban culture has seen many substantial developments over the course of a century. With the introduction of the Lago Refinery at the turn of the 20th century, followed by the breakout of the Second World War and the general incentive for political independence during the mid-century, a cultural identity on the island began to take form and have since developed through international and local influences.

In the pre-industrial era of the 19th century, much could not be said about a cultural identity on the island. Still being a part of a Dutch colonial territory at the same, as well as not having political or economic autonomy (Curacao was the center of commerce, cultural life, and political management of the Netherland Antilles at the time), the small population of Aruba consisted mostly of farmers and fishermen, tending to their crops and their cattle, or going out to fish to provide for their family. As Quito Nicolaas states in his article *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* (Literary History of Aruba: Cultural Life), "during the pre-industrial period, there were no significant economic activity that could have created a cultural ambience, with only one way to generate profit at the time for the sub existence of Aruban families."

It wasn't until the introduction of the Lago Refinery in San Nicolas in 1928, that the island saw a small boom in cultural manifestations and entertainment, as farmers left the 'cunucu' (country) life to work in the refinery, which resulted in Aruba acquiring a different economic pillar. Before this, entertain-



ment and cultural manifestations were mostly experiences by local parishes and the island's elite, who often partook in cultural and entertaining activities around the island, like going to the movie theater or coming together to share poetry on Sundays after church.

Literary life

Throughout the 19th century and up until the 1940s, there were also not much trace of a cultural climate for the cultural-literary sector on the island. Primary education was introduced on the island mid-19th century, followed by secondary and higher education around the late 30's and 40's. It wasn't until the 1950s, with the introduction of the E.R.N.A agreement in 1951 and the signing of the Statute in 1954, which allowed more space for and control over the economic and cultural development of Aruba, that the literary life on the island began to grow substantially

compared to decades before. This was in response to local institutions established in the 1940s for cultural and literary growth on the island, but that did not yet capture the attention of the general public. The 1950 brought with it a boom of literary production on the island, like those of V.S. Piternella, as well as migrant authors José Ramón Vicioso y Rings William Rufus, who have also contributed to the literary development on the island. The literary movement was further promoted by local broadcasters Voz di Aruba and Radio Kelkboom, with their regular broadcast of literary works.

The 50s and 60s also saw the influence of international cultures, especially that of the United States. During this time, because of international influences as well as the continued prosperity of the oil refinery, cultural traditions in Aruba began to really take form and

become widespread, as different worldly and local concepts were introduced in the Aruban society. With the establishment of local television broadcast station Tele-Aruba in 1963, and with time and possibilities, local programs such as "Nos Tera" ("Our Land") started to pay more attention to the Aruban culture and worked to form a cultural consciousness in the community. The 1960s also saw the rise of local authors and artists, who were more comfortable in producing works in our native tongue, Papiamentu, but who also produced works in Spanish, English and Dutch. This new phenomenon was in response to the interaction between economic growth, individual prosperity, cultural life and literary expression.

The 21st century

Nowadays, international influence on our culture is still prevalent, especially those from Latin America, the United States and The Netherlands. Nevertheless, there also exists a strong cultural identity and traditions that are exclusive to the Aruban culture, often manifesting during traditional celebrations, like Dia di San Juan/Dera Gai (St. John's Day), Dia di Himno y Bandera (National Hymn and Flag Day), Camping during Easter and much more. With the surge of social media in the last decade, artistic voices, especially those of the younger generation, has become even more prevalent and easily accessible to the community of Aruba through online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.

Source: *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* by J.R. "Quito" Nicolaas



The stories of “Compa Nanzi”

(Oranjestad)—The most popular character you may hear about in the Caribbean is Anansi, known locally on Aruba as “Compa Nanzi”. Local children grew up hearing the tales of the conniving spider, and his legacy forms part of the oral narrative tradition that is common in Aruba.

Although the stories are most popular in the Caribbean, “Compa Nanzi” is not entirely unknown globally, especially not in the West African region. Brought to the “new world” by enslaved Africans from Ghana, the historical thread of how Nanzi was introduced on Aruba follows the enslaved Africans in Curacao during the colonial era, which saw the biggest population of enslaved Africans in the Dutch Caribbean.

The stories of Compa Nanzi were a sign of hope for freedom among the slaves, who passed around different stories involving the famous spider through word of mouth, due to not being able to express their native culture in the new world. These stories were a way to not only preserve their culture, but it acted as a medium for relief during the harsh treatment to which they were subjected to.

It wasn't until the end of the nineteenth century that the stories of Nanzi were written down in different languages. However, not all stories are completely alike in every country, as is the risk of oral

story telling. However, one thing will always be dominant in Compa Nanzi's stories: his sneaky ways to get what he wants!

How Nanzi fooled the king
One day Nanzi was taking a stroll near the castle of Shon Arei, the king. He had this sudden urge to walk in. He didn't think too much about it and committed to what he had in mind. It was a warm afternoon, and the castle personnel were taking their afternoon nap. Even the soldier guarding the castle door was fast asleep, snoring so loud that his beard bounced up and down on his chin. Nanzi just slipped past him, looked back for a moment then walk right on in.

Nanzi stumbled upon the king's quarters. With all his excitement he sat in the king's throne, and put on his crown that was hanging on the side of the throne. It was very hot that day, and it wasn't long until Nanzi too fell asleep, right there on the king's throne. He was so deep in sleep and snoring so loud, that even when the king found him in his seat, Nanzi did not even notice.

Shon Arei was flabbergasted by the sight of Nanzi on his throne, wearing his crown. How disrespectful! “Soldiers, get him!” he commanded. Nanzi was sound asleep, but when the soldiers picked him up, he jumped from fright. By then though, the soldier already had him in their hold.



“Put him in a sack, stitch it up and throw him in the ocean!” the king said furiously. Two soldiers immediately entered the chamber, took the crown off Nanzi's head and pushed him in a sack.

Nanzi was terrified; it looks like this time he won't get away with his schemes. To get to the ocean, the soldier walked a long distance, and where beginning to feel very thirsty. Luckily they passed by a pub, and decided to have a nice cold beer. They set the sack with Nanzi in it outside and went to enjoy the refreshments. Nanzi was still trembling with fear in the sack.

What is that he hears? A herd of sheep walking by?

“Compadre, listen here!” Nanzi screamed as loud as he could. The sheep herder got close to the sack. “What is this?”

“Man, there is something very beautiful in here that you can see. It's very rare and strange, but indeed, there is something so beautiful in here that you've never seen or will ever see,” Nanzi told the herder.

The herder, very dumb, believed Nanzi's word. “Let me see!” he said.

“Well if you must insist,” Nanzi said, “I'll let you take a look, but only for a quick second.” The herder opened the sack, and Nanzi immediately jumped out. Before the herder could even take a look into the sack, Nanzi pushed him in it, and the herder fell head first in.

Nanzi didn't waste any time, and closed off the sack real tight. He then picked up the herder's hat

and starting walking behind the traveling sheep as if nothing happened. After a little while, the soldiers headed back outside to continue their journey. As they picked up the sack, the poor herder started screaming to let him out, but the soldiers ignored him, thinking it was Nanzi.

Shon Arei went strolling a while later. He thought to himself: “This time Nanzi could not get away with his foolishness. He probably drowned in that sack ages ago.” That is why, when he saw Nanzi walk behind the herd of sheep on the street, he was flabbergasted again. “Nanzi! Aren't you suppose to be at the bottom of the ocean floor?”

“I was, Your Majesty,” Nanzi replied. But you know what, there is so many things to see down there in the sack! Like this herd of sheep. Seeing that they had no herder, I started walking behind them and gained their trust pretty quickly. At the bottom of the ocean there are so many wonderful things, like diamonds, and bags of gold. Chests of silver and other precious stones,” Nanzi told the king.

“What is that you say?” the king was intrigued. “I want to see it too!” The king immediately demanded to his soldiers to be put in a sack and be placed in the ocean. Naturally, Shon Arei died because of this. He was never found again. Nanzi followed the soldier back to the castle, where sat once again on the late king's throne and put his crown on. He took possession of all of Shon Arei's belongings, and lived the rest of his life as king.

Story and pictures are from “Kon Nanzi a Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)” by Nilda Pinto.



CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

ACROSS

- 46 Measure
1 Puts on the wall
6 Family car
11 Left, on a liner
12 Runway sight
13 Sorceress of Greek myth
14 Muscular Japanese dog
15 Prayer finish
17 Plop down
18 Like some return envelopes
22 "What — for Love" ("A Chorus Line" song)
23 Attack, in a way
27 Fizzy drinks
29 Andean animal
30 Sports spots
32 Sierra Club founder
33 Green stones
35 Relaxing retreat
38 Leave out
39 Sled dog
41 Cut into cubes
45 Band-leader Shaw

- 47 Magnificent
48 Supply with funds

DOWN

- 1 Deli meat
2 Gorilla, for one
3 Silent approval
4 Large dog
5 Philatelist's find
6 Droopy-eared dog
7 Caribou's kin
8 Speaker's stand
9 Opposed to
10 Orderly
16 Have lunch
18 Galileo's home
19 Smell
20 Flank
21 Spotted dog
24 Actor Julia
25 Sur-rounded by
26 Old salts
28 White dog
31 Sch. for priests
34 Chain of hills
35 Uneven hairdo
36 Contented cat sound
37 Movie pooch
40 Family
42 Cow's chew
43 Sense of self
44 Grass coater

C	H	A	M	P		C	A	R	D	S
L	I	N	E	R		O	P	E	R	A
A	D	D	T	O		D	E	V	I	L
S	E	E	S	T	O		E	V	E	
S	K	A		E	N	C	O	R	E	S
Y	I	N		S	T	O	L	E	N	
			S	T	A	N	D			
	A	S	S	E	R	T		S	A	P
B	L	O	N	D	I	E		E	R	A
R	U	N			O	S	C	A	R	S
O	M	A	H	A		T	A	M	E	S
A	N	T	E	S		E	R	A	S	E
D	I	A	N	A		D	E	N	T	S

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11						12				
13						14				
			15		16			17		
18	19	20					21			
22				23			24	25	26	
27				28		29				
30				31		32				
			33			34				
35	36	37		38						
39			40			41	42	43	44	
45						46				
47						48				

10-16

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-16

CRYPTOQUOTE

PKTSKD VGS MGA KUC XPWWDK

WDPHDC PED BDPB GPC KDHDE

VPMQGDB MGD L BPKQAKN SK P

VAKBT BPT. — CGAEP MPLAE

Cryptoquote: AUTUMN LEAVES
DON'T FALL, THEY FLY. THEY TAKE THEIR TIME
AND WANDER ON THIS THEIR ONLY CHANCE TO
SOAR. — DELIA OWENS

Cruise ship Schedule: Oct. 01 - 12 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	CALLS
WED	01	FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
SUN	05	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	07	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL VISTA	07.00 13.00	16.00 23.00	B C	1 1
WED	08	GRAND PRINCESS RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS FREEWINDS	08.00 08.00 06.00	18.00 23.00 ****	B C E	1 1 1
THU	09	SERENADE OF THE SEAS	08.00	18.00	C	1
SUN	12	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-

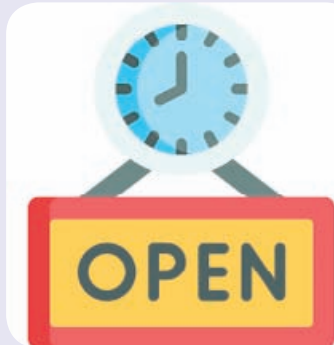
Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

1			8	7		6	3	
2		3	5	1	6		7	
	8	6			2			
6			1					3
				5	8	2		
8	7			6			4	
		4	6	3		1		8
		8	2					7
5		7						

Difficulty: ★★★

10/9

Answer to previous puzzle

5	3	4	9	1	7	2	8	6
2	1	9	3	6	8	7	4	5
6	8	7	2	4	5	3	9	1
7	2	3	1	5	9	4	6	8
1	6	5	4	8	2	9	7	3
4	9	8	7	3	6	5	1	2
9	5	1	8	2	4	6	3	7
8	7	6	5	9	3	1	2	4
3	4	2	6	7	1	8	5	9

Difficulty: ★★★

10/8

Southern right whales awe admirers in Patagonia after coming back from brink of extinction

By VÍCTOR CAIVANO and
RAMIRO BARREIRO
Associated Press

PENÍNSULA VALDÉS, Argentina (AP) — After coming back from the brink of extinction, Southern right whales are swimming in greater numbers off the coast of Argentina's Patagonia this year, delighting tourists seeking to catch a glimpse of their acrobatics. Peninsula Valdés, located in the Patagonian province of Chubut, is globally important for the conservation of marine mammals and is home to a key breeding population of Southern right whales once an endangered species as well as elephant seals and sea lions.

"I've seen whales in Canada and California, but this was the best and probably the largest number of whales I've ever seen in my life," said Tino Venz, a German tourist who recently visited the peninsula with his girlfriend.

The Southern right whale was nearly exterminated by hunting expeditions up until the last century. Before large-scale whaling began, the population in southern waters was estimated at around 100,000, before it was decimated to about 600. Since then, it has slowly recovered to roughly 4,700 whales around Peninsula Valdés today.

Whale-watching season in the south American country peaks between August and September. This year, more than 2,000 whales have been spotted, though the actual number is likely higher, scientists say.

Venz, 24, and his partner joined Argentine Andrea Delfino and her children on a boat trip. Southern winds stirred the whales into more acrobatic breaching, a spectacle that leaves an indelible impression on those who witness it.

Other tourists preferred to watch the whales from the shore, as is common in neighboring Brazil or Uruguay.



A Southern Right Whale breaches off the coast of Puerto Piramides, Argentina, Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025.

Associated Press

Watching from the beach, Agustina Guidolín, fulfilled her dream of witnessing "the immensity that borders on the magical and the wild." The tourists were at El Doradillo Park, a protected natural area in Puerto Madryn, where whales spend time close to shore with their young after giving birth.

In addition to Peninsula Valdés and other points in Patagonia, the whales' migration route extends along Uruguay's eastern coast and southern Brazil. Santiago Fernández, a biologist with Argentina's Na-

tional Scientific and Technical Research Council, is part of a project that since 1999 has carried out two to three aerial surveys each year along 640 kilometers (400 miles) of Patagonian coastline. This year's count recorded 2,100 whales 863 of them mothers with calves, and the rest solitary individuals.

"We're underestimating the number of whales in the area," Fernández said of the census, noting that it represents only a snapshot, since whales move in and out of the same region as they migrate.

He explained that in 1999 "about 500 whales were counted along that same route," and that "we're currently seeing a 3% annual growth rate." □



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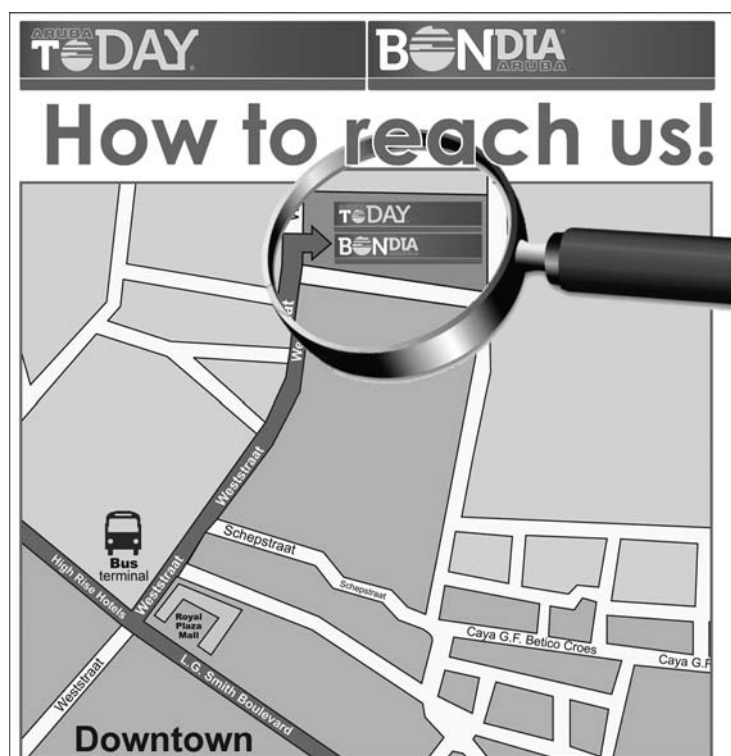
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HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Eagle: Tel.587 9011

San Nicolas:

Centro Medico:Tel.584 5794

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Is there an AI bubble? Financial institutions sound a warning

By **KELVIN CHAN** and **MATT O'BRIEN**

AP Technology Writers

LONDON (AP) — Linger- ing doubts about the economic promise of artificial intelligence technology are starting to get the attention of financial institutions that raised warning flags this week about an AI investment bubble.

Officials at the Bank of England on Wednesday flagged the growing risk that tech stock prices pumped up by the AI boom could burst.

"The risk of a sharp market correction has increased," the U.K. central bank said.

The head of the International Monetary Fund raised a similar alarm hours after the Bank of England's report.

Global stock prices have been surging, fired up by "optimism about the productivity-enhancing potential of AI," IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said.

But financial conditions could "turn abruptly," she warned in a speech ahead of the organization's annual meeting next week in Washington.

Is there an AI bubble?

"Bubbles obviously are never very easy to identify, but we can see there are a few potential symptoms of a bubble in the current situation," said Adam Slater, lead economist at Oxford



The OpenAI logo appears on a mobile phone in front of a computer screen with random binary data, March 9, 2023, in Boston.

Economics.

Those symptoms include rapid growth in tech stock prices, the fact that tech stocks now comprise about 40% of the S&P 500, market valuations that appear "stretched" beyond their worth and "a general sense of extreme optimism in terms of the underlying technology, despite the enormous uncertainties around what this technology might ultimately yield," Slater said.

The most optimistic projections about the fruits of generative AI products foresee a transformation of

the economy, leading to annual productivity gains that Slater says have not been seen since the reconstruction of Europe after World War II. At the lower end, economist Daron Acemoglu of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has predicted a "nontrivial but modest" U.S. productivity gain of just 0.7% over a decade.

"You've got this incredibly wide range of possibilities," Slater said. "Nobody really knows where it's going to land."

Doubts about the worth of top AI companies

Investors have closely watched a series of intertwined deals over recent months between top AI developers such as OpenAI, maker of ChatGPT, and the companies building the costly computer chips and data centers needed to power these AI products. OpenAI doesn't turn a profit but the privately held San Francisco firm is now the world's most valuable startup, with a market valuation of \$500 billion. It recently signed major deals with chipmaker Nvidia, the world's most valuable publicly traded company, and

its rival AMD.

The Bank of England didn't name any specific companies but said that on "a number of measures, equity market valuations appear stretched, particularly for technology companies focused on Artificial Intelligence."

The report said stock market valuations are "comparable to the peak" of the 2000 dotcom bubble, which then deflated and led to a recession. With tech stocks accounting for an increasingly large share of benchmark stock indexes, stock markets are "particularly exposed should expectations around the impact of AI become less optimistic."

The bank outlined so-called downside risks, including shortages of electricity, data or chips that could slow AI progress, or technological changes that could lessen the need for the type of AI infrastructure currently being built around the world.

The IMF's Georgieva said current stock valuations "are heading toward levels we saw during the bullishness about the internet 25 years ago."

If a sharp correction were to occur, tighter financial conditions could drag down world growth," she said. □

Associated Press

Verizon teams with AST SpaceMobile on space-based cellular service

By **MICHELLE CHAPMAN**

AP Business Writer

Verizon has signed a deal to provide cellular service from space through AST SpaceMobile beginning next year.

Shares of AST SpaceMobile, a space-based cellular broadband network, soared more than 10% before the market opened Wednesday.

SpaceMobile's network is designed to operate across premium low-band spectrum, its own licensed L-band and S-band spectrum, and up to 1,150 MHz of mobile network operator partners' low- and mid-

band spectrum worldwide, the company said.

"The agreement will extend the scope of Verizon's 850

MHz premium low-band spectrum into areas of the U.S. that would benefit from the ubiquitous reach of space-based broadband technology," Abel Avellan, founder, chairman and CEO of AST SpaceMobile, said in a statement.

Financial terms of the agreement, which expands on a strategic partnership announced in early 2024, were not disclosed.

"By integrating our expansive, reliable, robust terrestrial network with this innovative space-based technology, we are paving the way for a future where everything and everyone can

be connected, regardless of geography," Srinu Kalapala, Verizon's senior vice president of technology and product development, said in a statement.

The deal arrives two days after Verizon named former PayPal CEO Dan Schulman to its top job, taking over the post from Verizon CEO Hans Vestberg.

Schulman, who has served as a Verizon board member since 2018 and is its lead independent director, will become CEO of the New York company immediately. Vestberg will serve as a special adviser through Oct. 4, 2026. □



This April 23, 2018, file photo shows the logo for Verizon above a trading post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

Associated Press

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Women's long jump takes over Times Square as Athlos brings track to the bright lights

By PAT GRAHAM
AP Sports Writer

Make room, Broadway, there's a different kind of performance opening down the street that's sure to be a showstopper.

For one night only, the women's long jump will take center stage for a competition held in the heart of a bustling Times Square. It's all part of the script for Athlos, a women's only track and field series, to shine the brightest lights on the sport. Act I opens Thursday with reigning world and Olympic champion Tara Davis-Woodhall leading a star-studded cast into a unique long-jump competition set in one of New York's trendiest tourist destinations.

Act II commences Friday when the stage shifts to Icahn Stadium, located on Randall's Island. There will be seven events counting the long jump final and a field of athletes that includes Olympic champions Faith Kipyegon and Masai Russell competing for more than \$773,000 in prize money. Plus, a silver crown from Tiffany & Co. is awarded to all the winners.

Act III opens next season as Athlos expands with a team-based format.

"This is a roadmap," Davis-Woodhall said, "to making track big again."

Athlos, Round 2

It's the second go-around for the Athlos NYC meet. This time, though, more of a chance to plan.

Last year, Athlos founder Alexis Ohanian of Reddit fame — and his team had



Alexis Ohanian poses for photos on the red carpet at the Women's Sports Foundation's Annual Salute to Women in Sports, Oct. 12, 2022, in New York.

five months to organize an event for women. They still assembled an all-star cast on the heels of the Paris Olympics, secured rapper Megan Thee Stallion to perform and saw more than three million viewers tune into their platforms.

Ohanian approached this season with one overriding thought: how to take the event to the next level?

He and his team brainstormed and brainstormed, with no idea too outlandish.

"We wanted to create something that can elevate the biggest stars of the sport in a format that's just as professional and real and legit, but also brings a different kind of entertainment value," Ohanian explained.

Hence, the Times Square long-jump competition, which will take place in front of the Sephora and Disney stores. Although it's been a long season, Davis-Woodhall wasn't about to miss this event set in the global center for entertainment and theater.

"I've been coming to New York since I was 16 years old and the first time I ever stepped in Times Square, I was like, 'I want my face on the billboards,'" Davis-Woodhall recounted. "To have a full-circle moment of when I was just a kid dreaming of this moment, it's pretty surreal and kind of emotional."

Turn up the volume

On Friday, the event cranks up the volume, with more live music and more storytelling. They have a DJ

blasting tunes in between the program of races, which include the 100, 200, 400, 800, mile and 100 hurdles. Some of the names in the starting blocks are 2024 Paris Olympic champions Kipyegon (1,500), Marileidy Paulino (400), Keely Hodgkinson (800) and Russell (100 hurdles). The paycheck ranges from \$60,000 for first place to \$2,500 for sixth. In addition, Athlos awards 10% of the revenue to the athletes. Break a world record? That's an extra \$250K bonus. In most cases, the money will be instantly deposited into their bank account via Cash App.

Big names watching

There will be some big names watching from the sideline in sprinters Sha'Carri

Richardson, Gabby Thomas and Melissa Jefferson-Wooden, who's fresh off winning three gold medals at the world championships last month in Tokyo. There will also be a tribute to Jamaican great Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, who's retiring from track.

Following all the fireworks and fast times, singer Ciara will take the stage.

"We want these athletes front and center, building their brand, raising awareness of the sport," said Ohanian, who's married to tennis great Serena Williams. "I'm not deluding myself into thinking that we're the ones that are going to be responsible for carrying (track and field). But I think we have an amazing opportunity here."

Big plans

His latest endeavor arrives after Michael Johnson's stalled-out attempt to transform track with the Grand Slam Track league. Johnson's venture had athletes alter their 2025 schedules so they could run in the league's four events, which turned out to be only three after the final meet in Los Angeles was called off. Some winners didn't get paid.

"We went into starting Athlos knowing that this was a wide open space," Ohanian said.

"That didn't mean it was our job to be the savior of the sport. Not at all. It meant we have an opportunity to build alongside the existing institution. □

Chiefs' Chris Jones deactivates social media after costly mistake in loss to Jaguars

By **DAVE SKRETTA**
AP Sports Writer
KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)

— Three-time All-Pro defensive tackle Chris Jones decided to deactivate his social media accounts this week after the effort by the Kansas City Chiefs' star pass rusher was called into question in the final seconds of last week's loss in Jacksonville.

The Chiefs had just driven 86 yards to take the lead when Trevor Lawrence led the Jaguars back down-field. They got help from a pass interference call in the end zone that set up first-and-goal with 23 seconds left but with no timeouts left. Lawrence took a snap from center and got



Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback Trevor Lawrence (16) gets past Kansas City Chiefs defensive tackle Chris Jones (95) as he runs the ball during the second half of an NFL football game, Monday, Oct. 6, 2025, in Jacksonville, Fla.

Associated Press

his foot stepped on by his right guard, sending him sprawling to the ground.

Jones appeared to be playing the pass and stood up on the play. Meanwhile, the Jacksonville quarterback scrambled to his feet and into the end zone, all while Jones stood watching, giving the Jaguars a 31-28 victory Monday night.

"You can't think that the guy is down. You can't think that," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said Wednesday. "You have to play the play. He knows. He's been around this a long time. That's really what it came down to."

Jones said after the game that "I thought multiple times we had him."

"We've just got to finish," he continued. "We've got to finish. Multiple guys there that we've just got to finish that play. It was a fluke play for him to be able to break that many tackles. Yeah, I put it on us as a defense. We've got to finish." That play was not the first time that Jones, who has been to six consecutive Pro Bowls, has been criticized this season.

In the Chiefs' season opener against the Chargers in Brazil, Patrick Mahomes & Co. had got them to within 27-21 with 2 1/2 minutes remaining, leaving it up to their defense to get the ball back. They sacked Justin Herbert for a big loss on second down, setting up third-and-14 at the Los Angeles 34 and potentially good field position with a stop. But on the ensuing pass play, Jones ducked inside the offensive tackle and lost containment, allowing Herbert to scoot around the right side. His 19-yard gain gave the Chargers a first down, and they were able to run out the clock from there.

"A lot of guys are harping on the play," Chiefs linebacker Nick Bolton said of the Jaguars' go-ahead score on Monday night, "but you have to keep your eyes where they're supposed to be. □



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